

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A catheter device comprising:

an elongated body member having a distal portion and an end;

~~----- a deflection mechanism that extends within the elongated body and is operably coupled to the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of the elongated body member;~~

a guide member;

a guiding mechanism coupled to the elongated body member and configured so as to guide the guide member; ~~and~~

wherein the guiding mechanism includes an exit portion from which the guide member exits when the guide member is being deployed from the guiding mechanism, where the exit portion is disposed with respect to the distal portion so the distal portion deflects from and with respect to the guide member, when the guide member is in deployed condition; ~~condition~~

~~wherein the distal portion is that portion of the elongated body member extending from the guiding mechanism exit portion to the end of the elongated body member; and~~

~~a deflection mechanism that extends within the elongated body and is operably coupled to the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of the elongated body member.~~

Claims 2-8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Original) The catheter device of claim 1, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises an artifact on the external surface of the elongated body member and extending axially along the elongated body member, where the artifact and the guide member are configured and

arranged so the guide member is moveably retained by the artifact and so as to allow for deployment of the guide member.

Claims 10-14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A catheter device comprising:

an elongated body member having a distal portion and an end;

— a deflection mechanism that extends within the elongated body and is operably coupled to the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of the elongated body member;

a guide member;

a guiding mechanism coupled to the elongated body member and configured so as to guide the guide member;

an ablation device being disposed in the distal portion, the ablation device being configured and arranged to ablate tissues proximal the ablation device;

wherein the guiding mechanism includes an exit portion from which the guide member exits when the guide member is being deployed from the guiding mechanism;

— wherein the distal portion is that portion of the elongated body member extending from the guiding mechanism exit portion to the end of the elongated body member;

— a deflection mechanism that extends within the elongated body and is operably coupled to the distal portion so as to cause the distal portion to deflect with respect to a longitudinal axis of the elongated body member;

wherein the exit portion is disposed with respect to the distal portion so the distal portion deflects from and with respect to the guide member, when the guide member is in deployed condition; and

wherein the exit portion is configured and arranged so that the distal portion when in a deflected condition is rotatable about the guide member, when the guide member is in a deployed condition.

Claims 16-25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A method for ablating tissue in particular atrial tissue, comprising the steps of:

providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, a deflection mechanism that extends within the deflection catheter device and operably coupled to the deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion and a guide member, wherein the deflectable distal portion includes an end thereof;

deploying the guide member so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through an opening in, and disposed in, a chamber, vessel or vein of a body; and

deflecting the deflectable distal portion including the end thereof with respect to the guide member using the deflection mechanism.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:

contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflected deflectable distal portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and

actuating the ablation device.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflected deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The tissue ablating method of claim 28, further comprising the step(s) of:

de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflected deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflected deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The tissue ablating method of claim 30, further comprising the step(s) of:

re-configuring the deflectable distal portion during said rotating so as to maintain the at least a part of the distal portion in contact with the tissues.

Claims 32-36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) A method for ablating tissue in particular atrial tissue, comprising the steps of:

providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member;

wherein the deflectable distal portion extends from an exit portion of the guiding mechanism to an end of the deflectable distal portion;

localizing an end of the deflectable distal portion with respect to an opening in a chamber, vessel or vein of a mammalian body;

deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the chamber, vessel or vein of the mammalian body;

deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member;
contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflected deflectable distal portion, where the ablation device is disposed within said at least a part;
and actuating the ablation device.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The tissue ablating method of claim 38, further comprising the step(s) of:

de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflected deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflected deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claim 41. (Currently amended) The tissue ablating method of claim 40, claim 41, further comprising the step(s) of:

re-configuring the deflectable distal portion during said rotating so as to maintain the at least a part of the deflectable distal portion in contact with the tissues.

Claims 42-45. (Cancelled)

Claim 46. (Currently Amended) A method for treating arrhythmias, comprising the step(s) of:

providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion having an end thereof, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion and a guide member;

deploying the guide member so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through an opening in, and disposed in, a vein of a mammalian body;

deflecting the deflectable distal portion including the end thereof with respect to the guide member.

Claim 47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step(s) of:

contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable distal portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and
actuating the ablation device.

Claim 48. (Currently Amended) The tissue-method of claim 47, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step(s) of:

de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claims 50-56. (Cancelled)

Claim 57. (Currently Amended) A method for treating arrhythmias, comprising the step(s) of:

providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion having an end, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member;

localizing the an-end of the deflectable distal portion within the left atrium of a mammalian body and with respect to an opening in a vein;

deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the vein;

wherein the deflectable distal portion extends from an exit portion of the guiding mechanism to the end of the deflectable distal portion;

deflecting the deflectable distal portion including the end with respect to the guide member;

contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and

actuating the ablation device.

Claim 58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflected deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step(s) of:

de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflected deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claims 61-64. (Cancelled)

Claim 65. (Currently Amended) A method for treating left atrial arrhythmia in a left atrium of a mammalian body; comprising the steps of:

providing a deflection catheter device that includes a deflectable distal portion having an end, an ablation device disposed within the deflectable distal portion, a guide member and a guiding mechanism that moveably retains at least a portion of the guide member;

introducing a portion of the catheter device including the deflectable distal portion into the left atrium;

positioning an end of the deflectable distal portion with respect to an a pulmonary vein extending from the left atrium;

deploying the guide member from the guiding mechanism so at least a distal portion thereof is deployed through the opening in, and is disposed in, the pulmonary vein;

deflecting the deflectable distal portion with respect to the guide member;

wherein the deflectable distal portion extends from an exit portion of the guiding mechanism to the end of the deflectable distal portion;

contacting a tissue area including tissues to be ablated with at least a part of the deflectable portion, where the ablation device is disposed within the part; and

actuating the ablation device.

Claim 66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, further comprising the step(s) of:

rotating the deflected deflectable distal portion about the guide member; and
wherein said contacting includes contacting another tissue area.

Claim 67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step(s) of:

de-activating the ablation device during said rotating; and
activating the ablation device after contacting said another tissue area.

Claim 68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 66, further comprising the step of maintaining the ablation device in an activated condition as the deflected deflectable distal portion is being rotated about the guide member.

Claims 69-72. (Cancelled)

Claim 73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring electrical conduction signals along a pulmonary vein; and
identifying an origin of atrial arrhythmias as being located in the pulmonary vein based upon the monitored conduction signals.

Claim 74. (Previously Presented) The catheter device of claim 1, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises a channel within the elongated body member and the exit portion comprises a through aperture in a side of the elongated body member that is in communication with the channel, where the guide member is deployed from the through aperture.

Claim 75. (Previously Presented) The catheter device of claim 15, wherein the guiding mechanism comprises a channel within the elongated body member and the exit portion comprises a through aperture in a side of the elongated body member that is in communication with the channel, where the guide member is deployed from the through aperture.

Claim 76. (Previously Presented) The tissue ablating method of claim 26, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member and a guiding mechanism, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) The tissue ablating method of claim 37, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

Claim 78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member and a guiding mechanism, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

Claim 79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.

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Claim 80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the provided deflection catheter device further includes a body member, wherein the guiding mechanism includes a channel within the body member and a through aperture in a side of the body member that is in communication with the channel, and wherein said deploying includes deploying the guide member from the through aperture.